Docket No. 1232-4809

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Yusuke SHIRAKAWA

Group Art Unit: 2625

Serial No.:

10/053,189

Examiner:

Y. Kassa

Filed:

January 15, 2002

For:

IMAGE SENSING APPARATUS, SHADING CORRECTION METHOD,

PROGRAM, AND STORAGE MEDIUM

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please enter this Preliminary Amendment in the above-identified application. A Request for Continued Examination (RCE) is being submitted concurrently herewith.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 10 of this paper and include an attached replacement sheet.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.